Litigation Chronology

<u>Date</u>	<u>Litigation Activity</u>	<u>Discovery And Conciliation Activity</u>
	Convergen Energy WI, LLC ("CEW"), and Theodore Hansen brought a Declaratory Judgment	
	Action in the Circuit Court of Brown County, Wisconsin (the county in which CEW is located and	
	Hansen resides), as Case No. 2020-CV-00495, captioned Convergen Energy WI, LLC, et al. v.	
	Convergen Energy LLC, et al. (the "Brown County Action").	
	A few hours later, Libra initiated this action (ECF No. 1).	
	Libra served its Complaint on Brian Mikkelson. (ECF No. 37.)	
	Libra brought an emergency motion requesting an <i>ex parte</i> Temporary Restraining Order ("TRO").	
	This Court arranged for a conference call to take place at 4 p.m. on May 19 to discuss Libra's	
	motion. I was retained by Steve Brooks and Greg Merle on May 15, and was retained by	
	NianticVista Energy, LLC, and Riverview Energy Corporation only a couple of hours before the	
5/19/2020		
5/21/2020		Libra served a set of interrogatories and document requests on Defendants.
l		The parties had a phone conversation to discuss logistical and technical issues to address the concerns raised in
ŀ	This Court set a briefing schedule on Libra's motion for a preliminary injunction, and set a hearing	Libra's ex parte TRO motion. During the call, I suggested that the parties triage the issues by priority, addressing
	date of June 2 for argument on Libra's motion. (ECF No. 32.) On the same day, so that they could	(1) the alleged "hack" of EuroEnergy's systems first, then: (2) the Latvian emails, and then: (3) CEW emails. The
	pursue conciliation on the issues raised in Libra's motion, the parties jointly requested a one-week	parties also discussed a process under which CEW's emails would be divided into categories of: (1) Libra-related
	extension of the schedule set by the Court (ECF No. 33), which the Court granted (ECF No. 36),	(2) neutral; and (3) CEW-only. Later that day, Defendants arranged a call in which the IT consultants for each
	resetting the preliminary injunction hearing for June 9.	side spoke directly to each other to work out details without interference by counsel. As part of these conciliation
		efforts, Defendants have reviewed approximately 264,000 emails, and have made nearly 48,000 emails available
5/22/2020		to Libra.
5/26/2020		Plaintiffs' counsel provided Defendants with a 16-page, single-spaced list of tasks and instructions to be
5/26/2020		completed immediately. Defense counsel listed the Latvian email accounts at issue, and suggested that the parties' respective IT firms
5/27/2020		
3/2//2020		handle the transfer directly, with each IT consultant monitoring what the other was doing. Plaintiffs' counsel indicated that the parties needed to reach an "agreement" on Libra's 16-pages of demands by
ŀ		the end of the day, or Libra would need to go forward with the preliminary injunction motion. Defendants
ŀ		responded that day with a detailed plan for how each of the three issues (the hack, Latvian emails, and CEW
5/29/2020		materials) would be addressed.
		The parties had a third call about technical issues. During this call, the parties further discussed the process of
	The parties jointly requested an additional two-week extension on the preliminary injunction	segregating hundreds of thousands of emails into: 1) Libra; 2) neutral; and 3) CEW buckets. I also informed
	schedule. (ECF No. 50.) The Court granted the parties' joint request, and reset the hearing for June	Plaintiffs' counsel during that call that Brooks had exchanged his Lenovo work computer for the HP several year
6/1/2020	24. (ECF No. 51.)	ago. Libra was unaware that Brooks had the HP until I told Plaintiffs' counsel.
		ago. Diota was anaware that Brooks had the fit whili I told I families counsel.
	Libra removed the Brown County Action to the United States District Court for the Eastern District	
	of Wisconsin. The removed action was assigned Case No. 1:20-CV-00823, and captioned	
6/2/2020	Convergen Energy WI, LLC, et al. v. Convergen Energy LLC, et al. (the "Eastern District Action").	
	CEW filed a demand for arbitration with the American Arbitration Association ("AAA"). The	
	,	Defendants identified a contact at their IT consultant who would work primarily on this project, and asked for
	v. L'Anse Warden Electric Company, LLC (the "Supply Agreement Arbitration").	times for him to connect with Libra's IT consultants.
	Libra's time to amend its Complaint under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15(a)(1)(A) within 21	
6/5/2020	days after service expired.	

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	CEW brought a limited action in the Circuit Court of Dane County, Wisconsin, for the sole purpose	
	of obtaining a temporary injunction (as expressly permitted by the Supply Agreement) while the Supply Agreement Arbitration was pending. The action was assigned Case Number 2020-CV-	
	001199, and captioned Convergen Energy WI, LLC, v. L'Anse Warden Electric Company, LLC (the	
	"Dane County Action").	
0/10/2020	Datic County Action).	Defendants timely served their objections and responses to Plaintiffs' interrogatories and document requests.
		Brooks also produced on that date several documents relating to the location of his Libra work devices, as Libra
6/11/2020		had requested.
0/11/2020		Defendants served Libra with a short set of document requests. Other than a prophylactic request for documents in
		support of its preliminary injunction motion (which Libra would need to provide anyway), Defendants asked for
		only one thing—a full copy of the "recorded confession" that Libra referenced numerous times in its Complaint
		and argument in support of its emergency TRO. Despite repeated reminders and follow-up requests, Libra has not
		responded in any way to the June 11 requests, and has not provided the recording or any expedited discovery in
6/11/2020		this case.
0/11/2020	CEW filed a motion for a temporary injunction (the Wisconsin state-court equivalent of a	inib cube.
	preliminary injunction under the Federal Rules). The Dane County Circuit Court set a hearing for	
	June 16 on CEW's motion.	
0.12.2020	valie 10 on OE 11 5 motion.	
		The parties conducted a telephonic meet and confer conference on outstanding technical issues and Libra's
	The day before the June 16 hearing in on CEW's injunction motion, L'Anse removed the Dane	discovery requests. I noted that Libra had told the Court that the limited purpose of expedited discovery was to
	County Action to the United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin. The action	ensure that Libra had identified all the custodians and devices that potentially possess Libra trade secrets.
	was assigned Case Number 3:20-CV-00543 and captioned Convergen Energy WI LLC v. L'Anse	Defendants had identified in sworn interrogatory responses all persons and entities to whom non-public
	Warden Electric Company, LLC (the "Western District Action").	information about Libra had been disclosed since 2019, meeting that need. It was unduly burdensome at this stag
	Walter Breen to Company, EEC (the Western Bistriet Fedicin').	I argued, to ask Defendants to sort through all "non-public" information about Libra and produce it in expedited
6/15/2020		discovery, when nearly of all it would have nothing to do with trade secrets. The request was just too broad.
0.15.2020		Libra agreed to "narrow" its document requests. Defendants agreed to provide even more detail as to the persons
		and entities who had received non-public information concerning Libra since 2019. I also suggested that the
		parties treat Brooks' Gmail emails the same way they were treating the CEW emails, dividing them into categorie
		of: 1) Libra-related; 2) Neutral; 3) CEW related. Plaintiffs' counsel rejected my suggestion. Finally, I mentioned
		that most of the Gmail emails would be between Brooks and Andueza, and Libra had access to Andueza's emails
		and did not need them from Defendants, especially during limited expedited discovery. Plaintiffs' counsel
		indicated that they were entitled to duplicative emails for "authentication" purposes, and that Plaintiffs would go
		to the Court on this issue immediately unless Defendants agreed. The parties also discussed the need for a
		Protective Order, and Plaintiffs' counsel promised to mark up the standard Protective Order used by this Court
6/15/2020		and provide Defendants with a draft.
5, 15, 2526		Plaintiffs' counsel requested that we make arrangements to create forensic images of the HP, Brooks' work iPhor
6/15/2020		8, and Brooks' personal cell phone (an iPhone 11).
0		Libra served amended interrogatories and document requests on Defendants. Rather than reducing the scope of the
		document requests as discussed during our June 15 call, however, the amended document requests expanded the
	CEW filed a renewed motion for a preliminary injunction in the Western District Action, and	scope, seeking even more information than the original requests. June 16 was also the deadline at the time for
	requested expedited consideration.	serving Declarations and exhibits in support of or opposition to Libra's preliminary injunction motion. Prior to the
		deadline, I called Plaintiffs' counsel and asked whether we wanted to extend the deadline to continue the
6/16/2020		conciliation process. Plaintiffs' counsel said he would get back to me.
		Libra served Defendants with a long list of demands that needed to be completed within the next three business
		days. I reminded Plaintiffs' counsel that they owed me a response on extending the preliminary injunction
		schedule, as the parties were already past the Court's deadlines. Plaintiffs' counsel responded that they would only
		extend the schedule if Defendants agreed without objection to all of the demands and schedule in Libra's June 17
		email. I replied that we would work through the list in good faith, but we would not "pre-agree" to Libra's
		demands just to get a short extension, when both sides were already past the deadlines set by the Court. Libra
		eventually agreed to an extension. On that date, Defendants also gave some feedback (provided by their IT
		consultants), on the June 17 list of demands. Plaintiffs' counsel also asked for information concerning Brooks'
		two iPhones (his work and personal phones), to evaluate whether they could be copied remotely, and specified a
		specific hard drive Libra wanted Defendants to purchase to hold the copies.

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	7/6/2020		Libra provided an email summarizing the issues in dispute.

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		The SA Defendants responded on July 7 with their views, and offered to participate in a meet and confer session
		to discuss all open issues. Among other items, Defendants provided Libra with the information Libra had been
		requesting as to Brooks' work iPhone 8. Libra did not respond to either the email or the offer to meet and confer
7/7/2020		until August 6.
	The court in the Western District Action granted Libra's motion to transfer that action to this Court.	
	The action was assigned Case Number 1:20-CV-05240-LJL and captioned Convergen Energy WI	
	LLC v. L'Anse Warden Electric Company LLC ("Supply Agreement Action"). In the transfer order,	
	the court noted that "[O]nce transferred, plaintiff's pending preliminary injunction motion will be in	
	exactly the same position with the New York court as it is before this one—fully briefed and ready	
7/8/2020	for adjudication." (SA ECF No. 36, at 9-11.)	The SA Defendants served objections and responses to Libra's amended document requests.
	Defendants timely served their Declarations and exhibits in opposition to Libra's preliminary	
	injunction motion. Libra did not serve any Declaration or exhibit. Given this, Defendants asked	
	Libra to clarify its intentions, and Libra belatedly asked Defendants to agree to an extension of the	
	preliminary injunction schedule and hearing. Also on July 9, the AAA circulated a list of potential	
	arbitrators in the Supply Agreement Arbitration, and asked the parties to rank the listed arbitrators	
	by July 23. Libra ignored this request.	
-	The parties jointly asked for a three-week extension on Libra's motion for a preliminary injunction.	
	(ECF No. 74.) The Court reset the preliminary injunction hearing for August 12, 2020. (ECF No.	
7/10/2020		
	•• /	Defendants renewed their offer to meet and confer, in particular with respect to the subpoena served on Elmerina
7/12/2020		Brooks, Libra did not respond.
	CEW wrote a letter to this Court in the Supply Agreement Action, informing the Court that CEW's	Ms. Brooks moved to quash the subpoenas served on her. (ECF No. 78.) Late in the evening, Plaintiffs' counsel
7/13/2020	motion for a preliminary injunction was ripe for decision. (SA ECF No. 38.)	finally approved the draft Protective Order circulated by Defendants on June 18.
	Defendants promptly filed on July 14 the Protective Order to which Libra had now agreed (ECF	BMO produced over 9,600 pages of documents in response to Libra's subpoena. BMO has informed Defense
7/14/2020	No. 82), and the Court entered it on July 15 (ECF No. 86).	counsel that Libra continues to ask for more discovery from BMO.
,		Plaintiffs' counsel contacted me and asked for a meet and confer call on Monday, July 20. I replied on July 17
		that (as I had previously informed Plaintiffs' counsel) I would be on a family vacation the week of July 20-24, but
7/16/2020		I offered to meet and confer the day I got back (July 27). Libra did not respond.
	Defendants moved to dismiss the Complaint, on grounds including the fact that this dispute must be	
	arbitrated. (ECF No. 91.)	
	CEW timely submitted its ranking of arbitrators in the Supply Agreement Arbitration. Libra did not	
	submit any ranking.	
7/24/2020	ownie wij rammig.	This Court granted in part and denied in part Elmerina Brooks' motion to quash. (ECF No. 99.)
7/30/2020		Ms. Brooks produced 110 pages of documents in response to Libra's subpoena.
		1 1 5 1
	Libra filed its brief in opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss. (ECF No. 107.) In its briefing,	
7/31/2020	Libra did not ask the Court for leave to amend its Complaint, or indicate any intention of doing so.	
,		Plaintiffs' counsel objected to the two pages of Ms. Brooks' production that she had designated as Highly
		Confidential under the Court's Protective Order, and asked for the reason for one redaction in the production.
		Shortly before midnight on August 3, Plaintiffs' counsel sent me an email claiming that Brooks had engaged in
		"unlawful acts," including "defaming," and "[i]mproperly communicating" with certain unidentified third parties
		Plaintiffs asked for confirmation by noon on August 4 that Brooks would cease and desist engaging in these acts,
	The parties jointly advised the court in the Eastern District Action that they had agreed to stay	
	Libra's motion to transfer pending this Court's resolution of Defendants' Motion to Dismiss.	or Libra would seek injunctive relief. I noted that noon on August 4 was the deadline for service of Declarations
		and exhibits in support of or opposition to Libra's preliminary injunction motion, which did not seem to be a
		coincidence. The very formal tone of the email was also unusual, suggesting that Libra was gearing up to file
		something with the Court, regardless of Defendants' response. I replied by the August 4 deadline, asking for more
0/2/2020		information so that we could understand what Libra was talking about, but Libra declined to provide any
8/3/2020		additional information.
	Defendants timely circulated their Declarations and exhibits in opposition to Libra's preliminary	
	injunction motion. For the second time, Libra did not serve any Declaration or exhibit. Defendants	
0/1/201	injunction, but Libra did not respond.	

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	I responded to Plaintiffs' August 3 email regarding designations and one redaction in the Elmerina Brooks production. I explained the basis of Ms. Brooks' Highly Confidential designation, but, in the spirit of compromise,
	Ms. Brooks produced a slightly redacted version of one of the documents in question that was designated as Confidential and therefore viewable by Libra. I explained that the second document had the same information as the first. Contrary to Plaintiffs' representation in their preliminary injunction brief, I did not "refuse" to address
This Court denied Libra's motion to stay the Supply Agreement Arbitration. (ECF No. 109.) CEW 8/5/2020 promptly informed the AAA of this Court's decision.	the second document, I just noted I did not see any reason why Libra needed to view the same information twice. I also explained the basis for the redaction about which Libra inquired. Libra did not ever respond to my August 5 email.
Libra's deadline to file a brief in support of its preliminary injunction motion lapsed. Libra did not file any brief, and made no request for an extension to either the Court or Defendants.	Plaintiffs' counsel sent an email responding to my email of July 7 on open discovery issues. Defendants found this email to be very confusing. First, it was sent 30 days after the email to which it responded. Second, the purpose of expedited discovery was to gather evidence to be submitted in support of or opposition to Libra's preliminary injunction motion. But the time to exchange evidence in support of or opposition to Libra's motion had lapsed, and Libra had not exchanged any evidence. We also noted that Libra had not responded to our August 4 email asking for Libra to clarify its intentions given its failure to meet the Court's preliminary injunction schedule, and Libra had not responded to our request. We did not understand the purpose of Plaintiffs' untimely email, which
8/6/2020 Libra's time to amend its Complaint as of right under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15(a)(1)(B)	could not generate evidence that could be used in evaluating the preliminary injunction.
within 21 days after service of a responsive pleading expired. Defendants filed their reply brief in support of their Motion to Dismiss on August 7 (ECF No. 111), completing briefing on Defendants'	I replied to Plaintiffs' email, explaining our confusion. Libra did not respond. From August 7 to the date of this Declaration, Libra has not made any meaningful attempt to conciliate on any outstanding discovery or injunction
8/7/2020 Motion to Dismiss.	issues.
Noting that Libra's time to file a brief in support of its motion for a preliminary injunction had	
expired, this Court cancelled the August 12 hearing on Libra's motion, and directed Libra to consult	
with Defense counsel and either submit a new joint schedule or advise the Court as to the parties' respective positions by August 14. After business hours on August 7, Libra contacted Defendants	
and proposed an extended schedule under which Libra could submit a brief, declarations and	
exhibits in support of its preliminary injunction motion by August 21, and Defendants would have	
until August 28 to file their brief, declarations and exhibits in apposition to the motion	
8///2020	
Defendants provided their preliminary injunction scheduling proposal in writing to Libra and offered 8/11/2020 to participate in a call to discuss. (ECF No. 114-1, at 4-5.)	
The parties conducted a short scheduling call to discuss the preliminary injunction schedule. During	
the call, Plaintiffs' counsel indicated that they intended to discuss the outstanding injunction and	
discovery issues in Libra's upcoming letter to the Court. Defense counsel asked to see a draft of the	
letter, to see if there were any areas in which Defendants could further conciliate and narrow the	
issues in dispute. Plaintiffs' counsel agreed to provide a draft of the letter. There was no discussion	
of discovery or substantive injunction issues during this call (Plaintiffs did not articulate any of their	
concerns), and this was not a meet and confer conference on either discovery or the injunction. It	
was merely a short scheduling call. Libra did not indicate any intent to amend its Complaint during	
8/12/2020 this call.	
Plaintiffs' counsel provided excerpts of the letter Libra intended to file with the Court indicating its	
intent on its preliminary injunction motion. In the draft letter provided to Defense counsel, Libra	
characterized "Emails and phone calls" with counsel for the SA Defendants as "a total waste of	
time." (ECF No. 114-1, at 2-3.) Also on August 12, the AAA contacted Libra and gave Libra	
8/12/2020 another chance to rank arbitrators by August 19. (Supply Agreement ECF No. 47-2.)	
Defense counsel wrote to Plaintiffs' counsel, indicating the points on which Defendants understood	
the parties to have agreed during the short August 12 call. (ECF No. 114-1, at 1-2.) Plaintiffs'	
counsel responded by disputing some of the terms of the parties' agreement, and indicating that Libra would tell the Court there was no agreement. Plaintiffs' counsel reiterated that dealing with	
8/13/2020 Defense counsel was a "total waste of time." (ECF No. 114-1, at 1.)	
6/13/2020 Deterise counsel was a total waste of time. (Det 190, 114-1, at 1.)	I .

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Libra filed its letter to the Court concerning its the preliminary injunction motion. (ECF No. 113.)	
Libra provided no explanation and no grounds for excusable neglect for its failure (twice) to meet	
the deadlines established in the Court's preliminary injunction schedule, and did not indicate any	
intention to amend its Complaint. Instead, Libra devoted the bulk of its letter to bringing up	
unrelated issues and gripes against Defendants. The letter closed by repeating that "Emails and	
phone calls" with Defense counsel "have been a total waste of time." (ECF No. 113, at 3.) In Libra's	
brief in support of its motion for a preliminary injunction, Libra suggests that these terse, insult-	
ridden exchanges on August 12 and 13, during which Libra did not raise or discuss any substantive	
8/13/2020 issue, were attempts "to avoid unnecessarily raising issues with the Court." (ECF No. 129, at ¶ 20.)	
Although the Court had ordered Libra to provide Defendants' position on the matter if the parties	
could not agree, Libra was silent as to Defendants' position in Libra's August 13 letter. Thus,	
Defendants filed their own letter with the Court on August 13 to explain their views. (ECF No. 114.)	
Also on August 13, Libra wrote to the AAA indicating: "Other work commitments necessitate at	
least a two week extension on the deadline" to rank arbitrators. (SA ECF No. 47-3.) The AAA	
responded by extending until August 26 Libra's second opportunity to rank arbitrators. (SA ECF	
8/13/2020 No. 47-4.)	
This Court set a new schedule on Libra's preliminary injunction motion, permitting Libra until	
August 25 to submit its brief and supporting papers, and giving Defendants until September 4 to	
8/14/2020 submit their opposition brief and supporting papers. (ECF No. 115.)	
Libra filed a motion for reconsideration of this Court's August 5 Order denying Libra's motion to	
stay the Supply Agreement Arbitration. (ECF No. 118.) Libra contemporaneously moved for leave	
to amend its Complaint, and submitted a proposed Amended Complaint. (ECF Nos. 117, 117-1.)	
Libra then contacted the AAA, notified the AAA that Libra had moved for reconsideration of this	
Court's order denying a stay of the Supply Agreement Arbitration, and asked the AAA to stay the	
arbitration further on account of Libra's motion. CEW objected, and the AAA refused to stay the	
8/19/2020 Arbitration.	
Liber Club in heid in manual of its making from a limit on initiation and annual in Declaration	Early on the morning of August 26, we received the Weiss Declaration (ECF No. 131), making various claims
Libra filed its brief in support of its motion for a preliminary injunction, and supporting Declarations and exhibits. (ECF Nos. 127-132.)	about activity on the HP from February to May, 2020. I asked Digital Intelligence to analyze the HP and confirm
8/26/2020 and exhibits. (ECF Nos. 127-132.)	or deny Weiss's contentions.
	Digital Intelligence informed me on August 30 that the HP is encrypted and they would be unable to analyze it
	unless Libra provided the encryption key or administrator password. Accordingly, on August 31, I asked Libra to
	provide (to Digital Intelligence only, not to me), either the encryption key or administrator password. Plaintiffs'
	counsel timely provided Digital Intelligence with the requested encryption key, and Digital Intelligence began its
8/30/2020	analysis.
The AAA notified the parties in the Supply Agreement Arbitration that it had tentatively appointed	
Paula Litt as Arbitrator, but the parties had until September 22 to object to the appointment of Ms.	
8/31/2020 Litt. No scheduling or final hearing has been set.	